

**[DISCUSSION DRAFT]**

SEPTEMBER 7, 2004

108TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION**H. CON. RES. \_\_\_\_\_**

Commending the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and its employees for its dedication and hard work during Hurricanes Charley and Frances.

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**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Mr. EHLERS (for himself and Mr. YOUNG of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on

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**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

Commending the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and its employees for its dedication and hard work during Hurricanes Charley and Frances.

Whereas 2 hurricanes, Charley and Frances, recently hit the State of Florida back-to-back, an event which has not occurred since 1954;

Whereas the employees of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Tropical Prediction Center/National Hurricane Center and the employees of key Southern Region Weather Forecast Offices worked 24 hours a

day for as much as 3 days straight to provide the most up to date information to the public during Hurricanes Charley and Frances;

Whereas the employees of the National Hurricane Center conducted 496 live television interviews as well as 567 telephone briefings to the media and others during Hurricane Frances;

Whereas the forecasts and information from the National Hurricane Center provided notice for the safe evacuation of more than 2,500,000 residents in the line of Hurricane Frances and warnings to 14,600,000 Floridians;

Whereas the Southern Region Hurricane Liaison Team provided support to the 25 different media outlets operating out of the National Hurricane Center, working 14-hour shifts over a total of 11 days during the 2 hurricanes;

Whereas National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Ocean Service provided storm surge predictions and hydrographic information support to Federal partners before, during, and after Hurricanes Charley and Frances;

Whereas National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service provided images of Hurricane Frances every 5 minutes over a 4 day period, an unprecedented number of images for hurricane tracking;

Whereas the Southern Region Weather Forecast Offices of San Juan, Miami, Tampa Bay, Key West, Melbourne, Jacksonville, Tallahassee, Atlanta, Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile, and Morristown provided up to the minute local details for residents throughout Hurricanes Charley and Frances;

Whereas employees from other offices within the Southern Region provided additional support to key Weather Forecast Offices directly impacted by Hurricanes Charley and Frances;

Whereas more than 1000 watches, warnings, advisories, and other statements were issued by key local Weather Forecast Offices during Hurricanes Charley and Frances;

Whereas National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Marine and Aviation Operation's Hurricane Hunters logged 128 hours of flight time through and above the storms to assist the National Hurricane Center in tracking Hurricanes Charley and Frances;

Whereas the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron of the 403rd Wing of the Air Force Reserve Command at Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi, logged \_\_\_\_\_ hours of flight time through and above the storms to assist the National Hurricane Center in tracking Hurricanes Charley and Frances;

Whereas the Southeast River Forecast Center provided critical river flooding forecast information to Federal, State, and private partners during Hurricanes Charley and Frances and during both accurately predicted the amount of excessive rainfall over Florida several days in advance; and

Whereas it is still the first half of hurricane season and all these employees are now engaged tracking the next tropical storm, Hurricane Ivan, which is fast approaching the United States coast: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2   *concurring)*, That the Congress—

1           (1) commends the employees of the National  
2       Weather Service, especially the National Oceanic  
3       and Atmospheric Administration Tropical Prediction  
4       Center/National Hurricane Center; the 53rd Weath-  
5       er Reconnaissance Squadron of the 403rd Wing of  
6       the Air Force Reserve Command at Keesler Air  
7       Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi; the National Oce-  
8       anic and Atmospheric Administration Aircraft Oper-  
9       ations Center at MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa,  
10      Florida; the Southern Region Hurricane Liaison  
11      Team; the National Ocean Service; and the National  
12      Environmental Satellite Data and Information Serv-  
13      ice, for their extraordinary dedication and hard work  
14      during Hurricanes Charley and Frances;

15          (2) commends the Southern Region Weather  
16      Forecast Offices of San Juan, Miami, Tampa Bay,  
17      Key West, Melbourne, Jacksonville, Tallahassee, At-  
18      lanta, Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile, and Morris-  
19      town for their extraordinary dedication and hard  
20      work during Hurricanes Charley and Frances; and

21          (3) expresses its support for the ongoing hard  
22      work and dedication of all who provide accurate and  
23      timely hurricane forecasts.